



Community Appearance Commission

Minutes

January 3, 2007

The regular meeting of the Salisbury Community Appearance Commission was called to order Wednesday, January 3, 2007, at 4 p.m. by Barbara Perry, Chair, in the Council Chamber, 217 South Main Street, Salisbury, North Carolina. The following members were present and absent:

Present: Greta Connor, Suzette Davis, Diane Gibbs, Barbara Lawther, Barbara Perry, Sara Robinson, Bill Safrit, Johnny Safrit, and Tom Wolpert

Absent: Cindee Bridges and Chad Morgan

Staff: Lynn Raker and Diana Moghrabi

Press: Mark Wineka, *Salisbury Post*

Barbara Perry, Chair, called the meeting to order. The minutes of the December meeting were approved with one minor correction. The Financial Report was accepted as submitted. The members of the committee welcomed Diane Gibbs.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Art in Public Places

NC DOT representative Pat Ivey did not feel the center column of the Gateway Public Art Project could be approved due to safety concerns. The Committee voted 14-2 to change the plan. The center column will be eliminated and the artwork will be added to the columns on either side. The side columns will be larger and the "wings" will be eliminated. The cost should be lower for the new plan. The committee could fight this decision for a long time and still not win. They believed this to be an acceptable compromise.

Lynn Raker and Barbara Perry met with the artist for the Gateway Public Art Project, Bill Culbertson, at lunch today; the artist will provide new graphics for the updated concept. The committee will present a recommendation to modify the original artwork to City Council. No request for funding will be made until the committee receives approval from City Council, hopefully at the January 16 meeting of City Council.

History and Art Trail Markers stored in the Planning Division are slated to be installed by the Streets Division; Lynn has talked to Steve Weatherford of that department.

The City Council Retreat has invited the Public Art Committee to make a presentation in February.

Tom Wolpert invited the Public Art Committee to display History and Art Trail markers at his business, A Step in Time, during the Water Works January 19 opening of “private collections / public connections.”

Neighborhoods & Education Committee

The Neighborhood Leadership Alliance housing subcommittee made a presentation to City Council December 19. Barbara Lawther saw the presentation on Access 16 and told Barbara Perry and Greta Connor they did a wonderful job with the presentation. City Council did agree to discuss the recommendation at the Council Retreat in February. The CAC understands that change may not occur overnight but asked that these recommendations not be put aside. The commission received a copy of a newspaper article in the Salisbury Post that covered the presentation.

Signs for the Park Avenue Neighborhood will take a couple of months to have fabricated and installed.

Branding and Wayfinding Committee will meet at lunch January 18 in the Council Chamber. A draft will be presented by the consultants.

Dixonville Cemetery Meeting—The next meeting will be January 4, at 2 p.m. at City Hall. Janet Gopen and Barbara Perry submitted an application to the Civitans for funds to repair the headstones. The meetings are organized and well attended.

Landscaping

Landscape of the Month—No question the signs need replaced by March.

Second Annual Holiday Storefront Decorations Awards—The awards were designed to help enliven the festive atmosphere in the downtown during the holiday season. The CAC also wanted to reinforce the success of the Downtown Salisbury, Inc. in encouraging downtown shopkeepers to enhance their year-round window displays.

The jury members were excited to find at least 54 businesses that created storefront seasonal displays. The jury originally planned three categories for the awards: best historic display, best display for children, and best overall holiday display. However, they quickly discovered that these three conventional categories hardly captured some of the more creative efforts of the shop owners. After some lively discussion, the jury finally made its decision, with a few added categories:

Best Overall Holiday Display: *Textile Products* for their own elegant display windows and for volunteering their decorative talents to beautify other building windows. (121 and 114 North Main Street)

Outstanding Public/ Private Display: *F&M Financial Center* and *A Step in Time* for the charming holiday stroll down Easy Street. (221 North Main Street and 5 Easy Street)

Best Themed Window Display: *Rhonda's Picture Place* for the clever play on movie revival "A Christmas Story." (113 West Fisher Street)

Best Display for Children: 106 South Main Street, owned by Steve and Lina Drinkard and generously decorated by adjacent shop *The Stitichin' Post*.

Most Creative Display: *Queen's Gifts*, for the always eye-catching and imaginative seasonal displays. (125 South Main Street)

Best Nostalgic Display: *Salisbury Square Antiques* (111 South Main Street)

Best New Shop Display: *Caniche* (200 South Main Street)

Municipal Service District (MSD) and Innes Street Improvement Grants (ISG)

There is close to \$3,000 remaining. Randy Hemann has informed Lynn Raker that OK Wig would like to do something more than a sign. It is hoped that the money could be retained for their project.

GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

January 16, 2007, the City Council will receive a presentation from the CAC on their goals. The request was increased to \$35,000 for Innes Street Grants and \$35,000 for Municipal Service District Grants. The full commission agreed on the goals as revised and submitted under separate cover. Johnny Safrit asked members of the CAC to attend the January 16 City Council meeting.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Tom Wolpert suggested that the CAC tie in the Spring Spruce Up with the Downtown Salisbury, Inc. Earth Day celebration.
- The Beauty Supply windows located in the 200 block of South Main Street continues to be an eyesore, but no one has been able to encourage them to change the windows. Merchandise in front of the Main Street Store in the 100 block of South Main is also a concern.

- Barbara Perry's second term is expiring in April and she will not be eligible for a term this time. Greta Connor's and Bill Safrit's terms are expiring, but they are eligible for another term; the CAC hopes they will agree to a reappointment.
- Greta Connor's husband was featured in the Salisbury Post in an article about Meals on Wheels.
- Greta Connor made a sincere statement of appreciation to staff. Lynn Raker followed the statement to say this Commission has good chemistry and it is an honor for staff to work with this group.

Being no further business the meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m. The next regular CAC meeting will be February 7, 2007.

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